AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

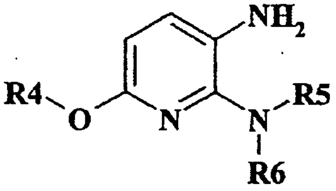
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A dye composition comprising, in a medium that is suitable for dyeing:

- at least one oxidation base, and

- at least one 6-alkoxy-2,3-diaminopyridine coupler of formula (I), or at least one addition salt thereof:



(I)

wherein:

- R_4 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, and NR_7R_8 radicals wherein R_7 and R_8 are chosen from hydrogen atoms, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)aminoalkyl, and C_2-C_6 aminohydroxyalkyl radicals;

- R_5 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic (-SO_3H), and NR_9R_{10} radicals; acylaminoethyl radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals; and

- R_6 is chosen from linear and branched ~~C_1-C_6~~ C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals ~~optionally~~ substituted with at least one radical chosen from ~~C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic, $NR'_9R'_{10}$, and acylamino radical, RCONH-, wherein R is a C_1-C_4 alkyl; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals~~ hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_2 (di)alkylamino, carboxyl, acylamino, and (di)hydroxyalkylamino radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals;

- wherein R_9[[,]] and R_{10}, ~~R'_9 and R'_{10}~~, which are independent of each other, are chosen from hydrogen atoms and C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, and acylamino radicals.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The dye composition according to claim 26, wherein R_5 ~~and R_6, which are independent of each other, are~~ is chosen from C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_2 (di)alkylamino, carboxyl and C_1-C_2 (di)hydroxyalkylamino radicals; 2-acylaminoethyl radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals.

29. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 28, wherein R_5 is chosen from methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-

carboxyethyl, 2-acylaminoethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 3-aminopropyl, 2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl, 2-N-methylaminoethyl, 2-(2-hydroxyethylamino)ethyl, and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The dye composition according to claim [[30]]26, wherein R_6 is chosen from 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-aminoethyl, 2-carboxyethyl, 2-acylaminoethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 3-aminopropyl, 2-N,N-dimethylaminoethyl, 2-N-methylaminoethyl, 2-(2-hydroxyethylamino)ethyl, and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals.

32. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 26, wherein R_4 is chosen from C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl and C_1-C_2 alkoxy radicals.

33. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 32, wherein R_4 is chosen from C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals.

34. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 33, wherein R_5 is an alkyl radical and R_6 is an alkyl radical substituted with at least one hydroxyl.

35. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to Claim 33, wherein R_5 and R_6 are chosen from alkyl radicals substituted with at least one hydroxyl.

36. (Currently amended) The dye composition according to claim 26, wherein the compound of formula (I) is chosen from:

2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)methylamino]ethanol;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)butylamino]ethanol;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]ethanol;
3-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)methylamino]propane-1,2-diol;
6-methoxy-N2,N2-bis(2-methoxyethyl)pyridine-2,3-diamine;
~~6-methoxy-N2-ethyl-N2-methylpyridine-2,3-diamine;~~
~~6-methoxy-N2-methyl-N2-propylpyridine-2,3-diamine;~~
~~6-methoxy-N2-butyl-N2-methylpyridine-2,3-diamine;~~
6-methoxy-N2-(3-aminopropyl)-N2-methylpyridine-2,3-diamine;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)ethylamino]ethanol;
~~6-methoxy-N2,N2-diisopropylpyridine-2,3-diamine;~~
~~6-methoxy-N2,N2-dipropylpyridine-2,3-diamine;~~
~~6-methoxy-N2-butyl-N2-ethylpyridine-2,3-diamine;~~
6-methoxy-N2-(2-aminoethyl)-N2-isopropylpyridine-2,3-diamine;
6-methoxy-N2-cyclohexyl-N2-methylpyridine-2,3-diamine;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)(3-aminopropyl)amino]ethanol;
6-methoxy-N2-cyclohexyl-N2-ethylpyridine-2,3-diamine;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)pentylamino]ethanol;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)cyclohexylamino]ethanol;
2-[(3-amino-6-methoxy-2-pyridyl)(2-aminoethyl)amino]ethanol;
6-methoxy-N2-methyl-N2-(6-methylaminohexyl)pyridine-2,3-diamine;
and the addition salts thereof.

37. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 26, wherein the at least one oxidation base is chosen from para-phenylenediamines, bis(phenyl)alkylenediamines, para-aminophenols, bis-para-aminophenols, ortho-aminophenols, heterocyclic bases, and the addition salts thereof.

38. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 26, wherein the at least one oxidation base is present in an amount ranging from 0.001% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the dye composition, and wherein when more than one oxidation base is present, each oxidation base is present in said amount.

39. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 38, wherein the at least one oxidation base is present in an amount ranging from 0.005% to 6% by weight, relative to the total weight of the dye composition.

40. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 26, further comprising at least one additional coupler chosen from meta-phenylenediamines, meta-aminophenols, meta-diphenols, naphthalene-based couplers heterocyclic couplers, and the addition salts thereof, other than the at least one coupler of formula (I).

41. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 40, wherein for the at least one coupler of formula (I) and for the at least one additional

coupler, if present, each coupler is present in the dye composition in an amount ranging from 0.001% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the dye composition.

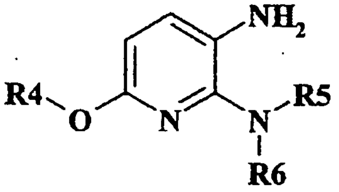
42. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 41, wherein the at least one coupler of formula (I) and for the at least one additional coupler, if present, each coupler is present in the dye composition in an amount ranging from 0.005% to 6% by weight, relative to the total weight of the dye composition.

43. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 26, wherein the dyeing medium is a cosmetic medium that is suitable for dyeing keratin fibers.

44. (Previously presented) The dye composition according to claim 26, further comprising an oxidizing agent.

45. (Currently amended) A process for the oxidation dyeing of keratin fibers comprising applying to the fibers, in the presence of an oxidizing agent, for a time that is sufficient to allow a desired color to be obtained, a dye composition comprising, in a medium that is suitable for dyeing:

- at least one oxidation base, and
- at least one 6-alkoxy-2,3-diaminopyridine coupler of formula (I), or at least one addition salt thereof:



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wherein:

- R_4 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, and NR_7R_8 radicals wherein R_7 and R_8 are chosen from hydrogen atoms, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)aminoalkyl, and C_2-C_6 aminohydroxyalkyl radicals;

- R_5 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic (-SO_3H), and NR_9R_{10} radicals; acylaminoethyl radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals; and

- R_6 is chosen from linear and branched ~~C_1-C_6~~ C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals ~~optionally~~ substituted with at least one radical chosen from ~~C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic, $NR'_9R'_{10}$, and acylamino radical, RCONH-, wherein R is a C_1-C_4 alkyl; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals~~ hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_2 (di)alkylamino, carboxyl, acylamino, and (di)hydroxyalkylamino radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals;

- wherein R_9[[,]] and R_{10}, ~~R'_9 and R'_{10}~~, which are independent of each other, are chosen from hydrogen atoms and C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, and acylamino radicals.

46. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 45, wherein the oxidizing agent is chosen from hydrogen peroxide, urea peroxide, alkali metal bromates, persalts, peracids, and oxidase enzymes.

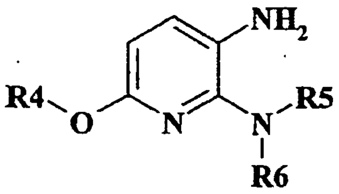
47. (Previously presented) The process according to claims 45, wherein the oxidizing agent is mixed at the time of application with the dye composition.

48. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 18, wherein the oxidizing agent is applied to the fibers simultaneously with or sequentially to the dye composition.

49. (Currently amended) A multi-compartment kit comprising a first dye compartment comprising a dye composition comprising, in a medium that is suitable for dyeing:

- at least one oxidation base, and

- at least one 6-alkoxy-2,3-diaminopyridine coupler of formula (I), or at least one addition salt thereof:



(I)

wherein:

- R_4 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, and NR_7R_8 radicals wherein R_7 and R_8 are chosen from hydrogen atoms, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)aminoalkyl, and C_2-C_6 aminohydroxyalkyl radicals;

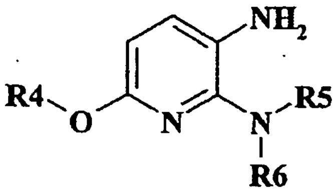
- R_5 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic ($-SO_3H$), and NR_9R_{10} radicals; acylaminoethyl radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals; and

- R_6 is chosen from linear and branched ~~C_1-C_6~~ C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals ~~optionally~~ substituted with at least one radical chosen from ~~C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic, $NR'_9R'_{10}$, and acylamino radical, RCONH-, wherein R is a C_1-C_4 alkyl; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals~~ hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_2 (di)alkylamino, carboxyl, acylamino, and (di)hydroxyalkylamino radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals;

- wherein R_9[[,]] and R_{10}, ~~R'_9 and R'_{10}~~, which are independent of each other, are chosen from hydrogen atoms and C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, and acylamino radicals.; and

at least one second compartment comprising an oxidizing composition.

50. (Currently amended) A 6-Alkoxy-2,3-diaminopyridine compound of formula (I) or an addition salt thereof:



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wherein:

- R_4 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, and NR_7R_8 radicals wherein R_7 and R_8 are chosen from hydrogen atoms, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)hydroxyalkyl, C_2-C_6 (poly)aminoalkyl, and C_2-C_6 aminohydroxyalkyl radicals;

- R_5 is chosen from linear and branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic (-SO_3H), and NR_9R_{10} radicals; acylaminoethyl radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals; and

- R_6 is chosen from linear and branched ~~C_1-C_6~~ C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals ~~optionally~~ substituted with at least one radical chosen from ~~C_1-C_2 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulphonic, $NR'_9R'_{10}$, and acylamino radical, RCONH-, wherein R is a C_1-C_4 alkyl; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals~~ hydroxyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_2 (di)alkylamino, carboxyl, acylamino, and (di)hydroxyalkylamino radicals; and 2-(2-hydroxyethyloxy)ethyl radicals;

- wherein R_9[[,]] and R_{10}, ~~R'_9 and R'_{10}~~, which are independent of each other, are chosen from hydrogen atoms and C_1-C_4 alkyl radicals optionally substituted with at least one radical chosen from hydroxyl, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, and acylamino radicals,

- wherein said compound of formula (I) is not 2-(N-methyl-N-(β-hydroxyethyl)amino)-3-amino-6-methoxypyridine.